

This request is entitled to expedited processing because it meets the three-pronged criteria outlined in the Freedom of Information Act at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II).

First, as a full-time journalist employed by Politico, I am a “person primarily engaged in disseminating information.”

Second, my request seeks information about “an actual or alleged Federal Government activity.” I am seeking records created by this agency about its plans and preparation for the presidential transition, activities which are required by law, including Presidential Transition Act of 1963.

Third, there is an “urgent need” for the information that I am requesting because of the ongoing, unfolding uncertainty over the presidential transition that has followed the November 3, 2020 presidential election. On November 7, 2020, major national news organizations—including the Associated Press, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and Fox News—projected that Joe Biden is the president-elect. But President Donald Trump has not publicly conceded the election and the General Services Administration has not ascertained the outcome of the election, a determination that is required to trigger many presidential transition activities and funding.

The urgent need for the requested information is demonstrated by the substantial public interest in the contested status of the presidential transition and when it will begin. (See, for example, “Trump Appointee Stands Between Biden’s Team and a Smooth Transition,” *The New York Times*, Nov. 9, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/09/us/politics/trump-biden-transition.html>; “Trump’s bid to discredit election raises fear that he will undermine a smooth transfer of power,” *The Washington Post*, Nov. 7, 2020, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-concession-transition-power/2020/11/07/2b4cf640-20e4-11eb-b532-05c751cd5dc2\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-concession-transition-power/2020/11/07/2b4cf640-20e4-11eb-b532-05c751cd5dc2_story.html); “A Government Official Is Holding Up Trump-Biden Transition Process — but Work Can Still Be Done,” *People Magazine*, Nov. 9, 2020, <https://people.com/politics/a-government-official-is-holding-up-the-trump-biden-transition-process/>.)

The records I am seeking will shed light on the extent to which this agency complied with the presidential transition activities that are required by law. Additionally, a delay in providing a response to this request would result in significant adverse consequences for the American people, who urgently need access to information about the continuity of government, especially during the ongoing national emergency relating to the coronavirus pandemic. The need for information regarding the successful transition of federal programs at this time is heightened by the national emergency caused by the pandemic, which has significantly altered the operations of this agency and its programs. Moreover, a delay in providing a response would significantly impede Politico’s ability to disseminate news to the public about crucial information regarding the presidential transition. Failure to process this request in an expedited fashion would be contrary to law and deprive the public of access to timely information about the continuity of government.

I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.